

Contaminated drinking water in rural areas

†83. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is probability of different kinds of health related diseases on due to the consumption of contaminated and fluoride contained drinking water;

(b) whether the common man is bound to drink such contaminated water in several parts of the country;

(c) if so, whether Government have formulated any scheme to always ensure the availability of clean and sweet drinking water to public across the country in order to protect them from different types of diseases; and

(d) if so, the detailed outlines of the scheme and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) There is a possibility of getting various types of water related diseases like dental fluorosis, skeletal fluorosis and non-skeletal fluorosis, if drinking water containing fluoride level beyond the permissible limit of 1.5 mg/l is consumed by the people over a prolonged period of time.

(b) to (d) Rural drinking water is a State subject. Government of India extends financial and technical assistance to States for supply of safe drinking water in rural areas by Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Disinfection of drinking water is one of the unit processes adopted by the State Governments for providing bacteriologically free drinking water in rural areas. For providing safe drinking water to water quality affected habitations, State Governments are required to monitor the quality of water and advise consumers to take water, from safe sources, if available nearby. For treatment of contaminated water, many technologies like Nalgonda technique, Reverse Osmosis, Desalination, Activated Alumina based domestic filters, iron removal filters, etc. are used. Water from alternate safe sources is also provided.

In order to tackle water quality problems, a Sub-Mission programme was introduced in 1991. This has recently been revised for providing focused

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

funding to arsenic, fluoride, nitrate, salinity and iron affected habitations and by releasing the 20% of ARWSP funds from the Centre only to water quality affected States, after receipt of formal proposal from them along with the minutes of the State level Scheme Sanctioning Committee meeting and level of contamination in each habitation. Addressing all water quality problem habitations is a component of Bharat Nirman.

Rural Development Schemes for tribal areas

84. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire rural development schemes cover also autonomous council areas for tribals as it is in the Panchayati Raj area; and

(b) if not, how the non-tribals in Tribal Autonomous Council will be covered under Rural Development Schemes?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The rural development schemes implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development cover the entire rural area of the country including the autonomous council areas. However, the National Employment Guarantee Scheme is implemented in 200 districts of the country presently.

(b) Does not arise.

Rural Business Hubs functioning in Andhra Pradesh

85. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Rural Business Hubs (RBHs) functioning in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise, location-wise;

(b) the aims and objectives of RBH;

(c) the funding pattern of RBH and amount contributed by Centre and State Government for RBH scheme in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the details of the business done by RBH in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years and the revenue earned by them?